

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 00534 152121Z

62

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SUBJECT: EX-PRESIDENT CALDERA SAYS U.S. BEING MISLED

1. DURING THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE SOCIAL CHRISTIAN (COPEI) PARTY IN CARACAS JANUARY 13, EX-PRESIDENT CALDERA SAID, "IT'S A SHAME THAT A GREAT COUNTRY LIKE THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAS THE OBLIGATION OF PLAYING A GREAT ROLE IN THE WORLD, IS BEING LED IN AN INCORRECT MANNER. FOR THIS REASON I BELIEVE IT HAS COMMITTED MANY ERRORS." CALDERA WAS REPLYING TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW U.S. TRADE LAW AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARKS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ARMED INTERVENTION OVER PRICES. CONTINUING, CALDERA SAID VENEZUELA'S

POLICIES "WILL BE STRENGTHENED AS LONG AS THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THEY ARE BASED ARE CLEARLY DEFENDED, AND BY OUR UNYIELDING ATTITUDE IN DEFENSE OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY. VENEZUELA IS NOT A NATION THAT LOOKS FOR FIGHTS; NOR HAVE WE LOST OUR SENSE OF PROPORTION. BUT IF OUR PEOPLE ARE UNITED IN THE DEFENSE OF OUR POLICIES, IT WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO CARRY OUT THREATS AGAINST US."

2. TURNING TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, CALDERA REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IMMINENT WORLD WAR. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED FACTORS EXISTED, "ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE, THAT HAD

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PAGE 02 CARACA 00534 152121Z

WORRISOME AND GRAVE CHARACTERICS." BUT, HE ADDED, "THE WORLD

HAS COME TO KNOW WHAT WAR MEANS, AND THIS IS THE BEST
ANTIDOTE AGAINST THE FOOLISHNESS OF A NEW WORLD WAR".

3. CALDERA'S COMMENTS REITERATED WHAT HE HAD SAID DURING A VISIT
TO MARACAIBO JANUARY 11. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, HE TOLD
JOURNALISTS THERE "THERE IS A GREAT ERROR IN U.S. POLICY
TOWARDS VENEZUELA. FOR THESE ERRORS WE ALWAYS ARE READY TO
CONDEMN THEM. WE ARE READY TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY'S RIGHTS,
WITHOUT DEMAGOGY AND RHETORIC AND WITHOUT PROVOKING NEW
AND GREATER TENSIONS IN THE WORLD. EVERYTHING TO THE CONTRARY,
WE ARE TRYING TO GIVE VENEZUELA'S COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR PEACE AND
UNDERSTANDING BUT ALWAYS DEFENDING AS GOOD "VENEZUELAN
OUR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY."

4. REVIEW OF COPEI'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FOLLOWS BY
AIRGRAM.
MCCLINTOCK

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